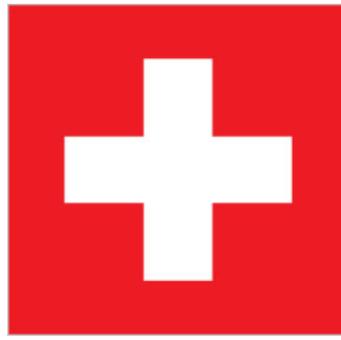




SWITZERLAND



INTRODUCTION

The Swiss Confederation was founded in 1291 as a defensive alliance among three cantons. In succeeding years, other localities joined the original three. The Swiss Confederation secured its independence from the Holy Roman Empire in 1499. Switzerland's sovereignty and neutrality have long been honored by the major European powers, and the country was not involved in either of the two world wars.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

President of the Swiss Confederation Guy PARMELIN

Head of Government

President of the Swiss Confederation Guy PARMELIN

Government Type

federal republic (formerly a confederation)

Capital

Bern

Legislature

bicameral Federal Assembly consists of the Council of States (46 seats), and the National Council (200 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 41,277 sq km
Land: 39,997 sq km
Water: 1,280 sq km

Climate

temperate, but varies with altitude; cold, cloudy, snowy winters; cool to warm, cloudy, summers

Natural Resources

hydropower potential, timber, salt

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

high-income, non-EU European economy; renowned banking and financial hub; extremely low unemployment; highly skilled but aging workforce; key pharmaceutical and precision manufacturing exporter; fairly high public debt

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$590.7 billion (2020 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$68,400 (2020 est.)

Industries - machinery, chemicals, watches, textiles, precision instruments, tourism, banking, insurance, pharmaceuticals

Agricultural products - milk, sugar beets, wheat, potatoes, pork, barley, apples, maize, beef, grapes

Exports \$470.9 billion (2020 est.)

gold, packaged medicines, medical cultures/vaccines, watches, jewelry (2019)

partners: Germany 16%, US 14%, UK 8%, China 7%, France 6%, India 6%, Italy 5% (2019)

Imports \$401.9 billion (2020 est.)

gold, packaged medicines, jewelry, cars, medical cultures/vaccines (2019)

partners: Germany 21%, Italy 8%, US 6%, France 6%, UK 5%, UAE 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

8.5 million (July 2021 est.)

Population Growth

0.65% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

Swiss 69.3%, German 4.2%, Italian 3.2%, Portuguese 2.5%, French 2.1%, Kosovo 1.1%, Turkish 1%, other 16.6% (2019 est.)

Language

German (or Swiss German) (official) 62.1%, French (official) 22.8%, Italian (official) 8%, English 5.7%, Portuguese 3.5%, Albanian 3.3%, Serbo-Croatian 2.3%, Spanish 2.3%, Romansh (official) 0.5%, other 7.9% (2019 est.)

Religion

Roman Catholic 34.4%, Protestant 22.5%, other Christian 5.7%, Muslim 5.5%, other 1.6%, none 29.5%, unspecified 0.8% (2019 est.)

